

CHAIRSHOTS

ISSUE #18

FEB. 16, 1994

\$1.00

LIFE STYLES OF THE **RICH** AND **FAMOUS**
PRESENTS: **BRUCE MITCHELL'S BATHROOM.**





SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

It's been about a month since our last issue and its sort of nice to have a few weeks hindsight for our latest Shootkick. This month's winners are those members of the front office of Titan Sports responsible for the Royal Stumble...er Bumble...ahhhh Jumble...oh hell, you know what I mean. And what I mean is that Titan Sports, "leader in the industry", flat out layed an egg with their latest P.P.V.

Say what you will about Titan. Lord knows that over the years I've learned to hate their slow-paced, musclehead style of work, but at least you could depend on them to have a well thought out storyline that seemed to have a beginning, a middle, and an end (Who could forget the classic Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth troika?). You could generally rely on a clean finish on a major show, and if it was a screwjob there seemed to be a specific reason for it (I call to mind the "twin referees" angle from a few years ago). But this latest effort was just a mess! It was all the more disappointing since "Raw" has become the show to watch during the week and I was actually starting to look forward to the show to see what was going to happen with the Bret/Owen Hart scenario. However, the card as a whole just seemed sloppy, half-assed and, worst of all, (GASP!) WCW-like!!

Let's start with that awesome, hardcore heel turn by Owen Hart. Oooooohhhh!! The hatred it inspired! What a sadistic attack! C'mon! Where was the Chairshot? Where was the top rope dive onto the hurt leg? Where was the spitting? Where was the blowing of one's nose onto his fallen foe? That's solid heel stuff, not some namby pamby sweep of the leg followed by a lite-as-a-feather kick! Wouldn't it have been better if....Owen pushed the injured Bret down and stood over him, screaming at him that he's a loser! Owen follows up with a few well placed stiff slaps to the face and leaves his brother laying in the ring. Later, Owen comes out for the Rumble in the 4th or 5th slot, and lasts 30 or 40 minutes, establishing himself as the "Ironman" and giving him some credibility as a single. He gets eliminated at the point where #25 or 26 are coming out. You then have Bret come out as about #28 or so, limping up a storm and selling the leg like it had been eaten by a shark. Just as he's about to get to the ring, he's clipped from behind by Owen. Bret's in agony but Owen grabs him from behind and puts the sharpshooter on him. Bret's being crippled....by his own hold! Vince is going bananas on the play-by-play putting Owen over as a new mega-heel. Owen finally releases the hold, but before he leaves, slaps Bret around and gives him the old snot bath. He leaves the ring area as the road agents attend to Bret. As they're helping him back to the dressing room, the giant screen then features the interview with Owen, who call his brother a quitter. Bret, upon seeing this, pushes the agents away and virtually crawls to the ring to participate in the Rumble. Vince is going even more nuts, proclaiming Bret as an even more courageous athlete than another Canadian, Wayne Gretzky. You have it where there's only like 4 guys in the ring at this point-Bret, Luger, Sean Michaels & maybe a mid-level heel like I.R.S. Michaels immediately goes after the wounded Bret, while I.R.S. ties up Luger. Sean is just beating him unmercifully and goes for a dive into the corner where Bret has slumped over. As he comes in, Hart lifts him over and out of the ring. At about the same time, Luger dumps I.R.S. This leaves Bret & Luger. Now noticing that Luger is not quite as over as Bret, you have Lex refuse to attack Bret, even though Hart is saying that he's ready to hook 'em up. Lex agains refuses and then you could have Vince declare Lex a "true sportman" since he refused to take advantage of a situation.

This way you could still do the goofy screwjob ending without the fans thinking it was a true screwjob. And what would I do for Wrestlemania? Well, I certainly wouldn't want to be accused by anybody of trying to be Boworen the Book....whoops, I said I wasn't going to use that name anymore.

Well, since our hack editor has only allowed me a limited amount of space this issue, I don't even have time to go into detail about that whole Undertaker thing, how friggin' lazy I thought the Steiners looked (again) and other notables from the Bumble, er Rumble. However, B-B-B-B-Barry informs me that we'll soon be doing another Chairshots, and I'll get to those thoughts and, oh yeah.... Smokey Mountain Wrestling....the Mummy gimmick....Oh my God....yikes was that bad..

ARENA RAMBLINGS

BY
RON
LEMIEUX

No time for babbling so let's get right into the news. WCW spent the last week down here in Florida opening up with tapings for World Wide at Disney from 2/7 - 2/10. The following are notes compiled from those four days: There were lots of stories going around concerning just what Dusty Rhodes' status within the company is. He had the biggest office at Disney (no jokes please) plus was basically still calling the shots. Bottom line is he has definitely taken a pay cut and demoted to consultant but still has a say in the booking. This led to all kinds of confusion as Mike Graham and Greg Gagne were also giving orders. One of the reasons a committee never works..... Robert Fuller has quite a bit of input which explains the newcoomer Bunkhouse Bob who is former stud stable member Jimmy Golden. They pushed him to the hilt during the tapings.....Believe it or not Kevin Sullivan starts out the tapings as a babyface as Equalizer's so called long lost brother. Equalizer's name becomes Evad Sullivan. (Dave backwards.) But by the last day of the taping Sullivan turned heel managed by Sherri Martel.....I bet Chris Cruise is happy Sullivan is back.....Bobby Eaton was in Japan but when he returns they will team him with Steve Keirn. I hope it's not a middle age fab gimmick. Keirn is about 10 years past his prime..... Top four bouts at Spring Stampede PPV in April are Flair-Steamboat, Vader-Bossman (steaming from Boss reffing the match this Sunday I'm sure), Bunkhouse Bob-Dustin Rhodes in a Bunkhouse match, and Sting-Rude for whatever title that is Rude holds.....Missy Hyatt was fired Tuesday night. She's claiming the reason is Jason Hervey got her canned but bottom line was her attitude got a bit too much.....Hulk Hogan made an appearance at the studio on Thursday but was not on camera. He just stopped by to say hello. A lot of the wrestlers want a spot on his TV show. As a matter of fact, Vader met with him personally on Tuesday night. On Friday, Hogan did some promos for WCW while Bobby Heenan and Gene Okerlund returned the favor and did some promos for "Thunder In Paradise". Still no word on any deal in the future.....Other non-WCW employees that showed up at Disney or the WCW party at the hotel included Haku, Johnny Ace, Angelo Mosca, Jimmy Hart, and Dory Funk, Jr.....They have a dream match each week skedded in the month of May for sweeps. One has Bossman beating Ron Simmons in a handcuff match. Steve Austin downing Johnny B. Badd in a tuxedo match. They have a three bout series with Queensbury rules between Flair and Regal which I was told were real good. It consists of 5 3 minute rounds. Flair won the first, lost the second, and won the third.....They wrapped up their week in Florida with a house show on Sunday, 2/13 in Lakeland that Chris Qualmann and myself attended. 1) Craig Pittman over Brian Anderson in 11:25. Pittman is being pushed as a marine corp greco roman wrestler. These two guys have lots of potential. ** 2) Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma bested Thunder & Lightning in 18:34. T & L were over huge. Match was decent due to the Paulas. T & L screwed up lots of moves as evidenced by Orndorff's look of disgust. *† 3) Steve Regal beat Brian Pillman in 17:16 in a good Regal-type bout. Regal's left hamstring was heavily taped. Regal used the ropes for leverage for the win. ***† 4) Nasty Boys turned back the challenge of Arn Anderson & Ricky Steamboat in 21:03. A tag match that told a story. Great tag spots throughout. Arn spinebusted Knobbs but Sags hit him with the boot enabling the pin. ****† Same old finish brought it down a notch. 5) Steve Austin beat Johnny B. Badd in 14:47. Austin was great. Badd sucks. Badd was a sub for Dustin as his wife (former Alexandra York was being induced for labor on Monday morning.) * † 6) Sting, Ric Flair, & The Boss beat Vader, Rick Rude, & Ron Simmons in 14:59. Great heat and intensity. Match only dulled when lazy ass himself Rick Rude got in the ring. They teased Vader and Flair great with them just locking up for about 2 minutes. How can anyone not love Sting. Charisma personified. Tell you what though. They better never let go of Vader. The man is simply awesome. Vader accidentally slammed into Simmons and Sting rolled him up. **** Overall the card was very enjoyable. The crowd was close to 3,000 and the heat was there for every bout.OTHER NEWS: Bobby Heenan's deal is reported to be a 3 year contract for \$300,000 a year. They renewed Jesse's contract for \$400,000. I bet they would like to pull that deal back. Heenan puts him to shame.....Lots of rumors about Elizabeth surfacing in WCW but don't believe it. She has a no compete clause with Vinoe that lasts until '95.....Haven't got definite word but Marty Jannetty apparently has run into trouble again. This time in Germany. Conflicting reports but he may have been fired.....Sting is skedded to be on Arsenio Hall tomorrow night (Tues. 2/15).....Jim Cornette popped his biggest house yet on 2/13 in Knoxville drawing close to 4,000 as The Bullett beat Terry Funk to win back the commissionership. Funk did a moonsault on Armstrong who was on a table. Also Dirty White Boy won the Smoky Mountain title beating Brian Lee in a chain match when Ron Wright ran into the ring, loaded his boot and nailed Prime Time. Other matches saw The Furnas' beat Heavenly Bodies, Bruise Brothers over Moondogs in a cage, Chris Candido beat Tracy Smothers, and more.....Running out of room. Enjoy SuperBrawl and take care.

See ya,

"The Lake Mary Truth Fairy"

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BOB BARNETT

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Dear Barry,

On Jan 17 at 4:31 AM, I was having sex with a sharp toothed girlfriend when the earthquake rolled through, and I was inadvertently "Bobbittized."

With all the sheet infighting going on, I regret that I am unable to currently engage in any pissing contests.

Call me.....

Les Johnson
AKA
Bob Barnett
Santa Monica, CA

Dear Chairshots,

I am writing in response to Jeff Bowdren's comments about me in his previous column.

Just for the record, I don't have "too much time on my hands." I have a supervisory position with the New York City Board of Education, teach English as a Second Language to adults two nights a week, put out a monthly newsletter, have a weekly wrestling radio spot on a NYC radio station, and am currently finishing a book which is a compilation of my late father's taxi stories. Maybe, just maybe, when I write a letter critical of Jeff's beloved Meltzer, it's because I sincerely believed what I wrote and still do today.

Yours truly,

EVAN GINZBURG

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FOR PUBLICATION

A side note that I would like to add to the "Confessions of a Tape Trader" from the CS #16 issue. Here's something that I have learn from experience, porno bootleggers, and other copyright bootleggers. If you are going to sell copyrighted stuff and want to avoid problems, then get a PO Box and an unlisted phone number. Although this will not guarantee your safety from the law, it will make it harder for them to reach you.

Bootlegger #1
Memphis, TN

NEXT ISSUE OUT IN 9 DAYS-BERKLEY EXPLAINS WHY
HE LEFT CS, BOWDREN ON MISSY HYATT, SECOND
INSTALLMENT OF HARDCORE, STEPHEN MEYERSON IN
THE GUEST SLOT, AND WHITEHEAD RETURNS!

Last issue I busted the proverbial chops of the ECW group. Well, the promotion said "Screw You, Scherer" in the best possible way last weekend at the ECW Arena when they put on perhaps the best live event I have ever witnessed. The group's 2½ show was unbelievable from start to finish. The booking was great and it showed a creativity that was both compelling and believable. The main event, which was a triangular ECW Title match between Terry Funk, Shane Douglas, and Sabu, was the best match I have ever seen live, easily 5 stars and lasting an hour. Terry Funk is a true star who has forgotten more about wrestling than the pissants who run WCW, collectively, ever knew. He is a legend who exudes class and makes me proud to be a wrestling fan. Shane Douglas wrestled the entire 60 minutes and showed himself to be a great talent in the process. Sabu was Sabu, which is a major compliment. The Bruise Brothers vs Public Enemy was wild bedlam. The Bruises totally destroyed the Enemy before losing after being decked by foreign objects. The brawl spilled out all over the arena and the Bruises did the spot that Aja Kong does where they wipe out huge sections of the seating area with their opponents body. The Sheik and Kevin Sullivan also had a wild arenawide brawl that ended when Sheik's partner, Pat Tanaka, pinned Sullivan's partner, the Tazmaniac, after the Sheik tossed a few fireballs. We took a pal of mine's daughter's boyfriend, who until then had only seen WWF shows and he loved it, swearing off Titan shows forever. The most priceless comment came when my pal asked him what his favorite match was and he said the Bruise Bros. because "they scared the shit out of me." That's a compliment! About the only bad thing I can say about the show was that if they keep up like this, a fan is inevitably going to get hurt. The action is just so wild. In fact, during the main event, at about the 56 minute mark, a girl who was standing on a chair (and since the action is always spilling out all over the place standing on a chair is necessary to follow it) 10 feet from me passed out and splattered to the floor. The scary thing was, if her boyfriend was not there, she'd have just laid there because the rabid Philly fans couldn't have cared less. They were there to see a great show and Paul E. Dangerously and the rest of ECW delivered in grand style. They should be proud. Oh, and if you are interested, they will be putting the show out on commercial tape. You can write them at ECW, PO Box 224, Media, PA, 19063 (I never thought I'd do that plug!)...Speaking of ECW, for those with access to the Channel America TV network, which may be on your cable or available on a low power UHF station in your area, they are now showing both ECW and SMW. ECW aired for the first time last night, 2/8. SMW airs on both Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings with the weekend show being a rebroadcast. The best way to find out if a Channel America affiliate is on your cable is to check out the dial at 11 pm EST on any weeknight. They run a different Rasslin' program every night...If you get a chance to get FMW's 8/22 commercial tape, do it. The tape has an incredible cage explosion match that words can't describe...AAA has been schizophrenic thus far in the new year. They have been airing a bizarre mix of new and really old shows on TV. Weird...I have a bunch of handhelds from last year's New Japan Junior Heavyweight tourney en route. I'll post some impressions next time...If you get a chance to see any of the handhelds or commercial tapes from SMW Fanweek, do it. The shows are great and it really makes the big two look pissawful when small promotion's like ECW and SMW continually do much more with much less...Those interested in SMW stuff, drop them a line at: PO Box 1279, Morristown, TN 37816...My good friend Katuyuki tells me that Akira Maeda is feuding with the Weekly Pro Wrestling mag in Japan. Seems to me, that Maeda sees Pancrase and UWFI roaring past his Rings group and is trying to stir things up...I watched the Vader-Takada match from 12/5 and I thought it was OK. Vader did an interview before the match where he said that he was the underdog since he was new to the style. Takada is over huge with the crowd too. He has a lot of charisma that comes across even with the language barrier...Well, this was going to be the column that I gave the guys at the Torch a week off, but then I read the Boy Wonder's "Below The Bottom Line" column in the 1/29 edition. For those of you who are smart enough to save the buck whatever that the sheet costs, like me, Wadester attempted to make an argument that when someone watches a Titan event, they should expect Titan style wrestling. Ok, I'll buy that, and in fact agree. Wrestling is a not a finite form of entertainment. Different people watch it for different reasons and they should enjoy what they enjoy. The fact that I would not like the Royal Rumble should come as no surprise to anyone who reads this column. The same thought should have gone through Keller's mind before criticizing Chris Zavisa, as he did in that column. I assume that since Wade likes to put all his columnists number grades in the "Major Event Torch Analysis" (and overanalysis like that crap is one of my beefs against his sheet). He asks his columnists to watch and rate the "Major Events." Well, what does he expect Zavisa to write? I would have expected the 0.0 Chris gave the show, why didn't Keller? He knows what Chris likes. He even wrote words to the affect that Zavisa was not "fair to the WWF" since he watched the Royal Rumble hoping to see "quality wrestling." He says that "to not accept the differences in style is to blind yourself to what makes the Royal Rumble, in many ways, a brilliantly executed show." Huh? The inference is that people who don't like Titan's promoting\wrestling style could enjoy the show, on a different level, if they were to get into a Titan mindset. Is this guy a pompous snotnose punk or what? Perhaps we should all send him thank you notes for enlightenment like that. The stupidest thing he wrote in that column, and there was a lot to choose from, was that the All Japan Women wrestled a "continual highspot style" and that he "would never enter a viewing of All Japan Women expecting reasonable ring psychology where I (he) assumed that a top rope piledriver would knock somebody out." These comments show how little Keller knows about AJW, and really wrestling in general. AJW does some of the best highspots in the world, but to call their style "continual" is ridiculous. And the comment about ring psychology is laughable. I guess he has never seen Akira Hokuto or Bull Nakano or Kyoko Inoue. And I know that he does not even watch the promotion, so his commentary on the group is fraudulent as well as stupid. I don't want to start sounding like Wadorama's Jeff Mullins here, so I am going to say this once, for the record. Wade's sheet sucks. His interviews, once the only reason to get the sheet, have been surpassed by John Clark (whose yearbook was as good as Meltzer said). His "news" is a joke, and that really shows the weeks that Dave does not publish the Observer. He has three good columnists, when they are not taking the biz too-seriously or answering hotline challenges. In fact, if Wade is not paying them, they should all quit, since they are the only workers in the sheet. Now, hopefully the Boy Blunder will just write about his usual boring drivel the next few weeks, like how he'd fix WCW ad nauseum, so that I don't have to waste valuable space correcting him again next ish...Until next time...

Nobody's Perfect

Jeffrey Cohen

Good afternoon, my friends and welcome to the first installment of *Hardcore Heaven*. This column previously appeared in John Arezzi's *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* newsletter. As far as I know, it still does. If another issue comes out, John has the backup emergency column I wrote.

I'll do some personal info for you stalkers later. Right now, I want to address my headline. So I screwed up. Big deal. Who hasn't? Wade (and I'm not doing this to bash him) stuck an apostrophe where it shouldn't have been recently for his Todd Gordon interview. This was in his first page banner headline. Dave (and isn't there only one Dave in wrestling?) has more typos and missing words than the Watergate tapes. Jeez, I'm dating myself with that reference.

Now let me up the ante... Vince McMahon. For years, he took a beating in the grappling sheets. "Aaw, why is Vince pushing the Warrior?" "Shuckies, why doesn't Titan book some of the Japanese guys?" "Golly, wouldn't Barry Windham make a great WWF Champion?"

All of this criticism rolled off of McMahon's back because he was perceived to be the Teflon Don of Wrestling [Term based on comparisons to Ronald Reagan, the Teflon President who could do no wrong while in office, and John Gotti, the mob boss who could do no wrong until he got (*gulp*) convicted]. As long as Titan Sports produced pay-per-view events which each had one outstanding matchup and grossed millions of dollars, Vince stood above all commentary.

Until Zahorian.

Wasn't it extraordinary? The federal case of one small-time doctor brought forth a stream of confessionals. Would Superstar Billy Graham have ever had such an opportunity to become the super babyface battling the ultimate heel, Vince McMahon? Whither Murray Hodgson? Rita Chatterton? What was that limo driver's name? Barry O... Bruno... Terry Garvin... Mel Phillips... Pat Patterson... Wasn't wrestling a pleasant pastime in 1992?

So the teflon coating slowly peeled from McMahon's back as his bacon was in the fire. Now it seems he can do no right. Fiscal restraints have caused him to demand announcers to move to Connecticut to save on flight costs. So he loses Gene Okerlund and Bobby Heenan, two of his first acquisitions after Hulk Hogan. Vince tries to wangle the frequent-flier mileage from his performers and gets reamed in print. The WWF produces two back-to-back PPVs that suck: *Survivor Series* and *Royal Rumble*. There is no mighty babyface comeback which can overturn the momentum of the past 24 months.

Let me quote Wade: "The real cancers on the business are those who practice unethical behavior behind the scenes, conduct themselves inconsistently, selfishly, and irresponsibly." (*Torch*, Dec. 11, 1993) Vince is watching as the chickens he hatched are coming home to roost.

All of this has been said before by many others. Why dredge it up now? I want to draw a parallel to another individual who has been up to now pretty impervious to criticism. And when his feet have been held to the fire, he's squirmed free on numerous occasions. Our boy, Jim Cornette.

Even before Smoky Mountain was in existence, I was told by a friend that record producer Rick Rubin [Beastie Boys, Dice Clay], a huge wrestling fan, was looking to put

money into a new group. But Cornette has to work even the sheets, even after *Details* magazine, last July, had a Rubin interview where he affirmed that he owned a regional grappling organization. I was going to write to Meltzer to point this out, but decided to see how long it would take before someone else opened up. It took long enough.

What is good enough for Jim Cornette? What drives him to take constant shots at WCW, the group which gave Jim the national exposure that allowed him to cultivate this relationship with Rubin? Sure, Dusty Rhodes has ridden a hellacious, destructive course similar to his NWA booking in 1986-87. But what has Dusty Rhodes done to Jim Cornette lately? Like, *this decade*.

The black wreath Jim and Stan Lane sent to Jim Herd to celebrate the "demise" of WCW... What a hoot, huh? Good thing they made sure to tell all the sheets about it. But how many years has it been since then? WCW may still be on the ropes, but Ted Turner could consume 10 Rick Rubins and five McMahons on the side. Cornette must feel secure in the knowledge that if he ever does come back to work for WCW, Turner will have no idea of the hilarity Jim has been producing at his group's expense. Hijinks that Jim has continued since the day he walked out on a valid contract because he didn't want to wait until Ole Anderson's inevitable firing.

But what has Dusty Rhodes done to Jim Cornette lately? Like, this decade.

For a man who says he spends very little of his time worrying about what the hardcores think, Jim Cornette has bent over backwards trying to keep his press image squeaky clean. After the "racial" attack last month, Jim went on the offensive to call it "business as usual." And everyone went for it. Again. I can picture Jim wiping the flop sweat from his brow, wondering how he could have deflected the criticism if he had gone through with his original booking idea, Tammy Fytch managing superheel Tony Atlas... *a white woman managing a black man in Tennessee!!!!*

On a personal level, I have a complaint about their merchandise. In July, 1992, I ordered three t-shirts, anticipating meeting Cornette at an Arezzi convention and wanting to wear mine to the show. The check was sent and cashed, and no shirts ever arrived. Every two or three months thereafter, letters were sent. Copies of the cancelled check were sent. *Nothing*.

Wade put a blurb in the *Torch*, asking for people having any trouble ordering merchandise from *anyone* to send him the information. I faxed him a copy of my cancelled check. Nothing. I can picture Wade wiping the flop sweat from his brow, wondering how he could have deflected the criticism if he had gone through with his original idea and actually announced that *fan favorite SMW had screwed one hardcore out of three lousy t-shirts!!!*

As far as the personal info goes, I am 30 years old. I live on Long Island (Titan territory) and work in Manhattan for a software company called Information Builders. I have never taken photos for the wrestling mags or promoted indie shows in Indiana. That's Jeffrey Bradford Cohen. Next fall, I will be married. My fiancé tolerates grappling and writes for *Rolling Stone* among other music mags. I'd love to chat more, but space is at a premium. Cuddles!

Jeff Cohen has just published the final issue of *Fantasy Federation*. Send a buck to him at 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023.

A KNEE TO THE GROIN!

"BUTCH'S FIRST ANNUAL READERS POLL!"

By Butch Bigelow
Wrestling's Most Statistically Oriented Columnist

Yoo Hoo! Hello? Is anybody out there? In light of the overwhelming non-response to editor Barry F. Rose's official *Chairshots Reader Survey* (3 letters - 2 of which were from Canada and were immediately disqualified), I have decided to personally address this matter. I know why most of you decided not to respond - the questions were just too dang hard, weren't they? In fact, the 2 Canadian respondents answered most of the questions wrong. In this, my very own reader survey, I am asking only the most simplistic, subjective questions possible, which don't require any intellect whatsoever to comprehend. Answer what you can and please name names. Send all responses to me c/o Barry W. Rose - Chairshots. I will report the result or results in a future column. And please - no Canadians!

"Top Ten Worst Reader Survey Questions!"

10. What is the dumbest thing you ever read in a newsletter?
9. What is the dumbest thing you ever wrote in a newsletter?
8. Who is the dumbest person in the newsletters?
7. How many enemies have you made through the newsletters?
6. How many of you pitiful losers have made the choice between watching wrestling all day and keeping your girlfriends, and are now sitting alone on a leaky beanbag chair in a barren apartment at 2am on a Saturday night, belching up cheap beer and stale pizza, watching 5th generation UWFI videotapes you got through Dave Meltzer's Readers Page, on the 13" screen of a crappy Korean B&W TV propped up on an orange crate?
5. Why do you people prefer petty bickering, feuding and backstabbing between a bunch of emotionally retarded, middle aged newsletter imbeciles who have no real lives, over responsible, objective, professional coverage of wrestling?
4. Why do some pinheaded sheet editors and writers tend to lose all sense of perspective and propriety when equating the subtleties, intricacies and sociopolitical profundities of wrestling with what they consider to be relatively mundane and inconsequential endeavors such as DNA Gene Splicing, the Hubbell Telescope, The Charitable Work of Mother Theresa or even the Glorious Career of Dave Scherer?
3. Who are all these people who supposedly respect that bugeyed little Bruce Mitchell character? Do they really exist or is this "most respected" crap just another delusion triggered by all that LSD the CIA put in his Coco Puffs back in the early 60s? Does poor Wade have to humor him as if he were that guy in *Arsenic & Old Lace* who thought he was Teddy Roosevelt?
2. What the hell is the deal with all you broads drooling over a bunch of moronic, muscleheaded wrestlers, anyway? Don't you dames realize that 9 out of 10 sheet writers can twist the average wrestler into knots? Why are you afraid of real men like me? Surely you aren't intimidated by the girth of our

massive bulges (and I don't mean my hernia!) since it wouldn't be the first time some of you broads wrestled a huge, squirming trouser snake down to the ground. Let's face it, some of you old gals have a lot of miles on you but are still almost as boy crazy as that Carlie Gill broad.

1. I asked it before and I'll keep asking until I get an answer! Why does it hurt when I urinate?

Special Bonus Top Ten List!

"Top Ten Worst Wrestling Marketing Scams!"

10. New from Rubbermaid! The Shockmaster's Bathtub Floor Appliques with Lard and Banana Peels
9. A New QVC Info-mercial: "More Amazing Discoveries! Luna Vachon's Facial Varicose Vein Fade Cream" also starring Ernest Borgnine and the lovely Lori Davis.
8. Yoko n' Fuji's "Nutri-systems Anti-Cellulite Diet Shake Mix" available in Seaweed, Squid and Sea Urchin flavors.
7. Bastion Booger's Microwavable Hungry Man "Liver, Gristle n' Gravy" Open Faced Sandwiches
6. "Mr. Lawler's Storytime" - The King eagerly volunteers to read *Little Women* and *Lolita* out loud to a pack of enthralled 10 year old girls at a Brownies Jamboree. (For national broadcast on NPR.)
5. Popsicle Presents: Bushwacker Brand "Frozen Sardines on a Stick." Available in mustard, oil, tomato sauce and Hersheys Syrup (for pushy feminist Choco-holics.)
4. Dr. Ramon's "Oozing with Machismo!" Gonorrhea Ointment
3. Lex Luger's American Original "Hulk-like" Action Figure
2. Chris n' Toni's 24 Hour Dial-a-Mistress, er... MATTRESS!
1. Dink's Spicy Shrimp Dip. "It Tastes Funny!"

That's All the People Care to Know!

BUMPS & GRINDS

by Mike Terry

Back at it from the wintry Midwest. Snow. Ice. Freezing rain. Shoveling. Scraping. Sliding. Scarves. Mittens. Ear-muffs (Boy do I feel like a dork when I wear those). I can deal with all those. I'm used to it. For some perverted reason I prefer it. Hell, it's home. But what I have such a problem dealing with is the lack of sun. It made an all-too-rare appearance in northwest Ohio yesterday. About an hour's worth. It's gone again today. Cloudy, boring, depressing. Lack of sun has a negative effect on my remaining brain cells. So what does this have to do with anything? Barry likes it when I share personal stuff. Oh yeah--I had my puppy spayed. Are you happy, Barry? I was actually trying to think of exciting things in my life to share, but realize there haven't been any. Now I'm more depressed. Thanks, Barry.

If I was Jesse Ventura, besides the fact that I would be about 6 inches taller with even less hair than I have now, I'd be pretty insecure about my job. Think about it! On the first show I miss after just over a year, no one even mentions my absence until the second hour. On another show they don't even mention me at all! That could mean many things. Maybe they're seriously thinking of phasing him out. Maybe they're trying to make us forget about him. Maybe he's still talking to Vince. And then again, hey--it's WCW. It's not supposed to make sense.

Quotes of da month: Ludvig Borga to Howard Finkel: "Who are you, you overgrown Smurf?".....As a WCW fan held up a "Bob Cook for President" sign, Jesse commented: "We know he'll get at least one vote." Tony Schiavone: "From the 'get-a-life' fan club.".....Gorilla Monsoon on Razor Ramon: "(he's) reeking in pain!".....Ventura on WCW ref Jimmy Jett: "Is he any relation to Joan?".....WWF guest ring announcer Latonya Johnson trying to announce Diesel: "What's the word?" Vince McMahon: "Latonya Johnson--hooked on phonics.".....Jim Cornette to Randy Savage: "Why don't you follow the example of your head and come to the point.".....Jesse on the possibility of Ray Stevens being named commissioner: "Ray Stevens?! Can he write?".....Jim Ross: "I wonder what Bam Bam's gonna get Luna for Valentine's Day." Gorilla: "How about plastic surgery?".....Bastian Booger during his color commentator stint on Raw: "Booger Mania is runnin wild!".....Terry Taylor on Power Hour: "Has Chris Cruise ever had a pulse?" Schiavone: "Not as long as I've known him."

Brain Gems: Bobby Heenan during a Terry Taylor match as Taylor falls flat on his face: "It's like Gordon (Solie) at last call!".....more from the Brain: "I'm good with numbers." Tony: "You sure are." Rolling right along...BH to Schiavone: "You were probably a lookout at Pearl Harbor.".....BH on Flair: "(Look at his nose!) It looks like he's playin' a slide trombone.".....BH while Parker was strutting in the chicken suit: "Boy, I'd hate to be a statue." Welcome back, Brain!

Nick-names: Heenan on Bagwell: "Bag Lady.".....Am on Sir William: "Jiminy Cricket.".....Johnny Polo on McMahon: "McMoron.".....Heenan on the Boss: "The Meter Maid from Marietta."

Joke of the Week: Todd Pettingill calling Debbie Combs the #1 contender for the women's championship.

Terry Taylor said it. He called Brad Armstrong the Rodney Dangerfield of professional wrestling because he just doesn't get any respect. There was probably more to that comment than met the ear. Taylor could probably categorize his own "plight" as a wrestler the same way. I couldn't agree more. I really think the braintrust (ha-ha!) of WCW is overlooking two of the most solid and marketable performers around. Give em a break, guys! Give em a push.

Random notes: Does Jim Ross spend a great deal of time during the event center segments in your town passing along personal messages? He does on Detroit TV. Always throwing out messages to his "good friend" Bill Fralic. Jim--no one's impressed! Next time--pick up the damn phone!.....Doink's just not the same since Matt Borne's gone.....I'm at a total loss to understand why Diamond Dallas Page gets booked.....or why Johnny B. Badd's still around. Pass the Maalox.....I slammed Jim Cornette's recent WWF interviews last month, so I've got to give him credit. I heard vintage Cornette 2/5 on Superstars with Randy Savage. The best in months, especially when Jim told Randy to "go snap into a Slim Jim.".....and who lit a fire under Stan Lane? He's improved 100% but I still prefer the heel color person.....what a classy build-up for Alundra Blaze. Now let's find her some competition.....in case you've ever wondered what became of former TBS announcer Van Earl Wright, he's a sports anchor for the World Wide affiliate in Detroit, WDIV, Channel 4.....So Ted Turner and Jane Fonda are showing interest in WCW. Thank God! Our problems are over. You do have to admire Jane for getting into the action the way she did. But what about that interview Ted did with Okerlund? Did they have to drug the guy to get him in to the place or what? Talk about incoherent!.....aren't we all sick of hearing about Tonya Harding and her merry band of thugs? The whole thing sounded like a wrestling angle. Hmmm...wonder if Ole Anderson consulted.

Finally, I'm told Missy is history in WCW. Now maybe she'll be able to pursue the Playboy spread. Funny. I always thought of Missy as more the Hustler type. You too? Later.

Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



Hey! It feels good to be back in the plush offices of CS after an absence of three weeks. Before I begin this month, I'd like to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent condolences on my recent loss. Many of you related stories about your own experiences with your fathers. These stories deeply touched me and were a great comfort. Thanks again!

●**IMPORTANT CHANGES IN CHAIRSHOTS BEGIN** with this issue. CS mailbox has moved from it's traditional last page slot to make way for the debut of a new running comic strip, created by our own John Hitchcock, entitled "HARDCORE." The MAILBOX has relocated to page four (more on letters below). Each issue will contain at least one "Guest Writer", beginning next issue with Stephen Meyerson. This "Guest Writer" deal should turn out to be pretty interesting, and we've got some familiar names lined up for the future. Now, the REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF! Beginning with our next issue (due out Feb. 25), CS will have a BRAND NEW ADDRESS! I'll be making a big relocation to NYC and will have a PO Box within days. If you need to renew your sub, or want to submit a letter, you need to do so IMMEDIATELY! The current address is good up to FEB. 25! After that date, all mail will be immediately forwarded to the NYC address. Now, the letters situation. I've gotten some great letters the last couple of months from different parts of this grapplin' land of ours. Most of them were intelligent (ok, semi-), coherent, and interesting. Unfortunately, they were also anywhere from three to six pages. Now, if CS was a thirty page sheet every issue, that would be fine. But, we ain't. So PLEASE, try to shorten 'em down just a bit. I don't want to be accused of editing something out that the author thought was germane to the points he was trying to get across. So, keep 'em coming guys.

●**CARLIE GILL IRKS THE FEMINAZI MOVEMENT** in her latest TORCH column. In a rebuttal to Mark "I really live up to my first name" Madden's column about how women have failed to get "over" as wrestlers or managers, the lovely eskimo bunny stated "I would be simply horrified-yes, horrified-at the thought of a man throwing his dignity out the window just to get my attention." WAKE UP, CAROLINE! Men will do anything to get the attention of sexy snow kittens such as yourself, including (but not limited to) making total assholes out of ourselves, falling in love with female Torch staffers (though, if you stop and think about it, Carlie really isn't the most feminine of the Torchies), or going to various "Tittie Bars" and stuffing Lincolns or Washingtons down the garter of some blonde little love cake. Emma Dike, of the NYC Feminazi organization had this to say recently. "Who the hell does this Charlie broad think she is anyway. We've been trying for years to get men to throw their dignity, along with anything else they want, out the window." Carlie, besides showing that she must be buried under forty feet of snow in a log cabin in Anchorage proving that she really doesn't know to much about the opposite gender, also turns out to be a hypocrite. In a letter that Carlie wrote to and Apter mag in early 1991 (I'm not making this up! I've seen the actual letter in the mag), the Angel from Anchorage states "There was no mention of the two sexiest men in the sport: Michael Hayes and Bobby Eaton." So, you mean to tell me that you find Hayes "purely sexy", even though he threw his dignity out the window while you were still in your crib. Something smells funny, and it ain't Alaskan salmon. Get your act straight, or I'm sending Todd Stutts north of the border to handle this situation.

SHEET HAPPENINGS AND SHAMELESS PLUGS

CS and the Torch aren't the only wrestling sheets where columnists have been "sparring" with each other. Dave Prazak's "Outside Interference" (PO Box 4005, Lisle, IL 60532-\$1.25 per issue) has got a real winner brewing with Wade Ratliff (a future "Guest Writer" for CS) VS. Anthony Scala. Scala in Issue #36 deflected Jim Cornette's use of ethnic slurs in the Wise, VA riot. He made such enlightened statements like "The blacks are getting away with everything on this racial issue." Ratliff came back in Issue #37 with "Let me ask you something, Scala. If someone called your mother a whore, would that provoke you? It should. If it doesn't then that should tell you that the person saying that either guessed right or you aren't worth crap as a son." Damn! Heavy stuff. A long time supporter of the smaller underground wrestling newsletters is Sheldon Goldberg of "Mat Marketplace" (PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-0020-\$2.50 per issue). His plugs for CS have been invaluable. Probably the most talked about "special" issue in the last year, MELTZER is the focus of Jeff Mullins' "Son Of Pro Wrestling Sushi" (PO Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158-\$3.00 for Meltzer issue, \$1.00 & SASE). I especially liked the parody on Jim Thompson's letter with the imaginary conversation between McMahon and Thompson. John Clark's "Wrestling Flyer" yearbook has been getting some pretty good press as of late. The interview with Sid has everyone talking. Contact John at PO Box 283, Wallingford, PA 19086. His yearbook goes for twelve bucks. CS staffers knock Lano and what does he do? He says super nice things about us in the latest issue of Evan Ginzburg's "Wrestling Then & Now". Check out those comments for yourself at PO Box 640471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364-\$1.25 an issue. A couple of obits on the sheet scene. Dave Doyle's "Moonsault Press" has failed to answer the ten count (look for him in OI soon) and Jeff Cohen's "Fantasy Federation" has ceased publication. Jeff is offering back issues at the rate of 3 for \$2.00. Write Jeff at 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023, and look for his writings to appear in CS from time to time. See you in 10. Later!!

HARDCORE

BY JOHN HITCHCOCK '94 THE REASON

HELLO OUT THERE IN
RASSCIN LAND.



THIS IS ME. AND I
HAVE BEEN ASKED
TO SHARE SOME
RASSCIN STORIES.



FOR THIS IS
TO LOOK BACK AND
LOOK FORWARD AT
MY EXPERIENCES.



AND TO HAVE SOME
FUN.
PERIOD.



WHEN THIS STRIP
STOPS BEING FUN...
SCREW IT.



O.K.?



O.K!
FIRST I HAVE NO
RULES - EVERYTHING
AND EVERYONE IS
FAIR GAME.



I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE
THINKING, WHO IS
THIS GUY?



GOOD QUESTION, I
ASK MYSELF THAT
QUESTION ALL THE
TIME.



I DONOT FEEL
THAT LISTING A
RESUME. THAT'S
USELESS BULLSHIT
SHIT.



I HAVE BEEN A FOR
FOR ABOUT... OH...
30 YEARS. BEEN A
CORE FOR ABOUT
9-10 YEARS AND,



I AM A MANK FOR
PIC FLANK, NOT AND
ANDERSON. O.K?
JEEZUZ...



I JUST LOOK A LITTLE
LIKE AND OK? AN
OLDEN FAT AND.



I USE TO DO TOONS
FOR THE TONCH, AND
THEY ARE GOOD
FOKS BY
ME.



AND I HAVE
HERD ENOUGH
BACK IN G'BOND.



I TOLD YOU
A BUNCH OF USELESS
STUFF.

